

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a Response to the Office Action mailed October 23, 2003, in which a three (3) month Shortened Statutory Period for Response has been set, due to expire January 23, 2004. Thirty-seven (37) claims, including three (3) independent claims, were paid for in the application. Claims 1-12, 23 and 29-40 have been canceled. Claim 24 has been amended. No new matter has been added to the application. No fee for additional claims is due by way of this Amendment. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Claims 13-22 and 24-28 are pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 13-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. On page 2 paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that *claim 29* "does not recite with what that the second end portion is electrically couplable to form a non-pressure engagement electrical connection." Applicants believe the Examiner was actually referring to *claim 24*, the only claim containing such language within claims 13-28.

As amended, claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, "the second end portion is unbiased and electrically couplable to form a non-pressure engagement electrical connection with a [first or second] *conductive terminal*." (Emphasis added.) Support for this amendment may be found generally throughout the specification, and in particular, in Figures 4, 5, 9-11, 17 and 19, and the corresponding description of such Figures.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bishop (U.S. Patent No. 5,967,800), claims 1, 2, 4-5, 7-9 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Braun (U.S. Patent No. 5,586,890), and claims

29, 30, 32, 33 and 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,227,870).

Claims 1-9, 23, 29, 30, 32, 33 and 35-38 have been canceled without prejudice.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 31 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,227,870) in view of Kroske (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,730), and claims 39 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,227,870) in view of Audet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,302,702).

Claims 31, 34, 39 and 40 have been canceled without prejudice.

Conclusion

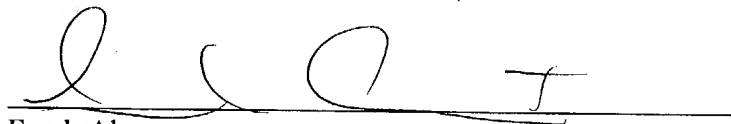
Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 13-22 and 24-28. Overall, the cited references do not singly, or in any motivated combination, teach or suggest the claimed features of the embodiments recited in independent claim 24, and thus such claim is allowable. Because the remaining claims depend from allowable independent claim 24, and also because they include additional limitations, such claims are likewise allowable. If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a relevant teaching in any of the references, the Examiner is requested to point out specifically where such teaching may be found.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application and timely allow all pending claims. Examiner Hyeon is encouraged to contact Mr. Abramonte by telephone to discuss the above and any other distinctions between the claims and the applied references, if desired. If the Examiner notes any

informalities in the claims, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Abramonte by telephone to expediently correct such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,

Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Abramonte', is written over a horizontal line.

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